



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND  
THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT



# Cultural and Educational Cooperation

The United States and Iraq strongly support the preservation and expression of Iraq's rich heritage, the establishment of a strong Iraqi higher education system, and the continuation of robust educational, cultural, and professional exchanges between our nations.

## Areas of Cooperation

- **Supporting Higher Education:** The USG and the GOI are working together to build a strong Iraqi higher education system. Our efforts aim to establish an English language institute hosted by the Iraqi Higher Committee on Educational Development, form an Iraq chapter of TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) International, and foster faculty development.
- **Facilitating Exchanges:** USG exchange programs foster mutual understanding and strengthen Iraqi capacity across sectors including education, English teaching, rule of law, entrepreneurship and economic growth, public health, scientific research, and human rights. A variety of exchanges are available, such as the Fulbright Program, the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), Study of the U.S. Institutes, the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship, the E-Teacher Scholarship Program, the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program, and Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) programs.
- **Preserving Cultural Heritage:** Cultural heritage initiatives, including improved professional capacity in objects conservation, historic preservation, and archaeology, help safeguard an Iraqi cultural and artistic legacy that is revered worldwide. In 2009 the USG established the Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage (IICAH) and recently committed additional funding to allow the IICAH to continue offering its world-class heritage preservation programs through 2013.

## Recent Accomplishments

- **Education:** The USG and GOI have established seven University Linkages; have increased support for educational advising, which contributed to a 45 percent rise in the number of Iraqi students studying in the United States in the 2010-2011 academic year; and co-hosted the first-ever EducationUSA college fair in Erbil in October 2011. The USG will provide two years of English classes to 1,500 disadvantaged youth this year, an increase of 50 percent over last year.
- **Exchanges:** In the last two years, approximately 250 Iraqis have participated in the IVLP program, and this year approximately 150 will participate. IVLP alumni have used their experiences to promote positive change at home; as a direct result of a 2010 IVLP on "National Science Policy," the GOI announced a \$50 million investment to create a National Science Foundation. In 2011, the Iraqi Fulbright program included 48 visiting Iraqi scholars and 30 Iraqi master's degree students.
- **Cultural Heritage:** The USG initiated a major project to preserve the ancient city of Babylon, providing funding for a site management plan and preservation work at the ancient city's most famous landmarks. Funding for the Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage (IICAH) in Erbil has expanded to include a grant from the USG for the objects conservation program and a larger grant from the Erbil Governorate for the historic preservation program. The U.S.-supported portion of the refurbishment of the Iraq Museum has been successfully completed.



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# Energy Cooperation

The United States and Iraq are committed to the development of Iraq's electricity, oil and gas sectors in an effort to build a strong economy that is capable of meeting the needs of the Iraqi people.

## Areas of Cooperation

- **Critical Infrastructure Protection:** The USG will provide training on accident response and critical infrastructure protection for Iraq's electricity sector. This program will allow Iraq to strengthen the safety and reliability of its electricity sector by training Government of Iraq personnel on how to develop and implement threat assessment and accident response systems, as well as to implement improved operations and maintenance procedures for new and existing electricity generation, transmission, and distribution facilities.
- **Support Iraq's Efforts to Generate, Transmit, and Distribute Sufficient Electricity:** The U.S. supports Iraq's goal to provide a substantial increase in electricity through significant ongoing and proposed projects and technical assistance. The USG will help the GOI to procure spare parts for Iraqi power generation stations, intending to replace those parts that can bring the most generation back online as quickly and as inexpensively as possible.

## Recent Accomplishments

- **Electricity Development:** Iraqi officials unveiled the USG-funded "Electricity Master Plan" in February 2011, which will guide Iraq's development of its electricity sector over the next 30 years. Since 2003, the United States has invested nearly \$5 billion in rebuilding Iraq's electricity system, which has added 2,900 megawatts of electricity generation capacity and accounts for almost a quarter of the Iraq's electricity supply.
- **Capacity Building:** The USG conducted workshops on oil tax regimes, contract negotiation, and international arbitration, which directly enhanced the Oil Ministry's ability to conduct transparent oil bid rounds in 2009 and 2010. In the electricity sector, the USG promoted a financially sound and sustainable foundation for provision of electricity services and the operations of the Ministry of Electricity.



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# Law Enforcement and Judicial Cooperation

**A strong justice system, built on effective policing, judicial independence, and rule of law, is vital to the security and development of Iraq. The United States and Iraq are collaborating to improve cooperation, capacity, and professionalism within Iraq's criminal justice system. These programs will help Iraq address corruption, terrorism, trafficking in persons, organized crime, drug abuse, and other threats to its people.**

## Areas of Cooperation

- **Support Judicial Security and Development:** The USG is working with Iraq to protect and build its judiciary through a wide range of efforts, including training to improve judicial security, the delivery of courthouse security equipment, and the transfer of the Judicial Development Institute (JDI) – Iraq's premier facility for continuing legal education – to the control of the Higher Judicial Council in 2012. The JDI was established in 2010 with a grant from the USG and has graduated 1,700 judicial personnel.
- **Provide Law Enforcement Training:** The USG provides advisory and technical assistance as well as training to support the efforts of the Ministry of Interior and police services to further develop leadership and technical skills critical to managing and sustaining internal security operations and supporting the rule of law. 120 members of the Iraqi Police will travel to the U.S. over the next three years as part of an exchange program for leadership development.
- **Continue to Improve the Iraqi Interior Ministry's Ability to Track Crime:** The USG will help Iraq implement systems that will expand the Advanced Responder Network System, Iraq's equivalent of the 911 system in the U.S., to 70 percent of the population, and will provide operator and maintenance training for an electronic biometric database.
- **Secure Land Rights of Iraqi Citizens and Business Owners:** The USG is working with the GOI to develop a secure database for the Iraqi Ministry of Justice to modernize its real estate registry and digitize the over 100 million documents it contains. This effort brings transparency and security to Iraq's land titling system, affording citizens and business owners the opportunity to buy and sell property in a system that reduces fraud.

## Recent Accomplishments

- **Support to Iraq's Corrections Systems:** Iraq's corrections system by 2003 was fully compromised by the brutal authoritarian practices of Saddam Hussein's regime. USG cooperation with the Iraqi Ministry of Justice Corrections Service since that time has helped Iraq develop and professionalize its Iraqi corrections system.
- **Anti-Corruption Institutions:** The USG funded a five-year anti-corruption strategy launched by PM Maliki in March 2010. It has also supported Iraq's efforts to develop anti-corruption entities, including the Commission on Integrity (COI). The COI played an instrumental role in the 2011 repatriation of Saddam-era funds.



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# Political and Diplomatic Cooperation

**The United States and Iraq support Iraq's democracy and are working to strengthen democratic institutions to better respond to the needs of the Iraqi people. The United States also supports Iraq's efforts to establish positive relations in the region and with key international organizations.**

## Areas of Cooperation

- **Support Progress on Iraq's UN Chapter VII Responsibilities:** As Iraq moves to normalize its relations with nations and organizations around the world, the United States is supporting Iraq's efforts to fulfill its international obligations in order to lift punitive measures placed on Iraq by the United Nations Security Council after Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait.
- **Support to Vulnerable Populations, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** The USG works closely with the Government of Iraq to improve access to basic government services for vulnerable populations. The USG works with local government and justice sector authorities to address community priorities, including legal services, to all of Iraq's people, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or sex, with a focus on the most vulnerable populations, including IDPs, widows, and orphans.

## Recent Accomplishments

- **Election Support:** The United States provided \$102 million over the last 7 years to support Iraqi elections, in particular to the 2010 Iraq Parliamentary elections in which over 12 million Iraqis participated. This support focused on a wide range of issues including political party development, transparency initiatives, civil society engagement, and media training.
- **Chapter VII Support:** On December 15, 2010, UN Security Council, in a special session chaired by Vice President Biden, passed three resolutions to help return Iraq to the legal and international standing it held prior to the 1990 invasion of Kuwait. With support from the USG, the Security Council recognized Iraq's commitment to non-proliferation and lifted restrictions on Iraq related to weapons of mass destruction and civilian nuclear activities. The USG also worked to ensure Iraq's compliance with Security Council resolutions concerning the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI) and Oil-for-Food (OFF) program.
- **Humanitarian Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees:** In 2011, the U.S. contributed a total of \$313.6 million in humanitarian assistance for Iraqi IDPs and conflict victims. These funds supported voluntary returns and reintegration efforts, and also provided basic humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable displaced Iraqis.



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# Services, Technology, Environment, and Transportation Cooperation

**The United States and Iraq are committed to strengthening Iraq's infrastructure and essential services delivery to improve the lives and health of the Iraqi people. It is vital to cooperate on transportation, health care, agriculture, and other key issues to promote growth and security in Iraq.**

## Areas of Cooperation

- **Improve Iraq's Transportation Infrastructure:** The U.S. transferred control of Iraq's airspace to the Government of Iraq on October 1, 2011, and will continue to provide technical assistance on communications, navigation, and other functions to improve Iraq's transportation infrastructure.
- **Strengthen Iraq's Health Care System:** The U.S. supports Iraq's efforts to strengthen its primary health care delivery services, improve the functioning of health clinics nationwide, and enhance its epidemiological training programs. The U.S. is collaborating with the Iraqi Government to improve public health communications campaigns, respond to disease outbreaks, and prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- **Strengthen Iraq's Agricultural Outreach Capacity:** The USG will work with the GOI to build on the Iraq Agricultural Extension Revitalization project to identify and address further areas needing improvement. The U.S. will develop exchange programs to connect Iraqi agribusiness entrepreneurs with their U.S. counterparts and expose them to U.S. farming and agribusiness technology, generating export opportunities for U.S. firms and jobs for Iraqis.
- **Capacity Building and Commercial Legal Reform:** The U.S. will provide capacity development in the areas of legislative and regulatory drafting, administrative procedures, and commercial dispute resolution. Capacity development programs will target oil and gas contracting, judicial adjudication and arbitration of commercial disputes, state-owned enterprise reform, and intellectual property law.

## Recent Accomplishments

- **Improved Rail Transportation:** The successful completion of the Communication Based Train Control System and Digital Microwave Radio Communication Network, funded by the USG, will help Iraq move goods, people, and raw materials quickly about the country via a state-of-the-art train control system that allows dispatchers to track and control rail movements.
- **Supporting Iraqi Institutions:** The USG provided technical assistance to help the Ministry of Health draft its 2010-2014 Strategic Plan, which was released in 2010.
- **Training Initiatives:** In 2011, the USG conducted training in biological and chemical safety and security for university students, scientists, and Iraqi government officials. Senior Iraqi government officials participated in scientific exchanges in 2010 and 2011 and senior Iraqi telecommunications officials participated in a 3-week training program in 2010. The first cohort of field epidemiology students will complete their two-year degree program in early 2012.



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# Trade and Finance Cooperation

The United States and Iraq support the development of a prosperous, diversified Iraqi economy that is integrated into the global economic system. To accomplish this goal, the USG and the GOI have partnered on a wide range of programs aimed to develop Iraq's economy and promote the expansion of bilateral trade.

## Areas of Cooperation

- **Promoting Iraqi-U.S. Business Ties:** Trade and investment are important cornerstones of the U.S.-Iraqi relationship, and the USG and the GOI are committed to bolstering these ties. The U.S. government brings dozens of Iraqi companies to several trade shows in the U.S. each year to help them connect and do business with U.S. partner companies. Twenty eight Iraqi and U.S. companies are also working together as the U.S.-Iraq Business Dialogue to advise the U.S. and Iraqi governments on private sector trade and investment issues in Iraq. The U.S. and Iraqi governments are also working together to find ways to finance Iraq's many large infrastructure development needs.
- **Improving Access to Credit and Strengthening Iraqi Banks:** The USG is supporting businesses in Iraq through access to credit and technical assistance programs, including more than \$20 million for loans directly to small businesses. The U.S. and Iraq are also working together to establish a bank training institute and create a nationwide retail payment and funds transfer system, which will make it easier for companies to do business throughout Iraq. These technical assistance and capacity building programs will enable Iraq to develop comprehensive financial infrastructure and help ensure the long-term growth and health of the Iraqi economy.

## Recent Accomplishments

- **Baghdad International Trade Fair:** For the first time since 1988, the United States participated in the Baghdad International Trade Fair, showcasing 85 American businesses, universities, and tourism organizations interested in a greater role in the Iraqi market at their flagship annual commercial event. The USA Pavilion featured companies with combined annual revenues of over \$1 trillion, making it the largest country presence.
- **Business Dialogue:** In June 2011, Secretary Clinton and Deputy Secretary Nides with Dr. Sami al-Araji and Ambassador Samir Sumaida'ie hosted representatives from thirty U.S. businesses to discuss opportunities for increased economic engagement between the United States and Iraq. The Iraq-U.S. Business and Investment Conference, held in Washington, D.C. in October, 2009, attracted some 800 U.S., Iraqi, and other interested business representatives. The USG has also supported a wide range of U.S. companies on trade missions to Iraq.
- **Commercial Dispute Resolution:** The USG helped the Iraqi Ministry of Justice establish Iraq's first commercial court for foreign investors. The U.S. will be actively involved in training the judges in commercial dispute resolution.